

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-8, 10, 11, and 25 are allowed as the prior art, in particular Barbian et al. (U.S. Pub. 2005/0052772), does not teach or suggest the applicant's invention. Claims 1 and 25 teach a method and apparatus for a tape drive tray. Regarding claim 1, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches an intelligence module having electronics to control and monitor tape drive tray functions in the storage library, including electronics to control and monitor the tape drive, power supply, fan, temperature sensor, and fault indicator light; and a main library controller interfaced to the intelligence module, wherein the intelligence module sends tape drive tray function data to the main library controller for use by the main library controller in commanding operations of the at least one tape drive tray, wherein, in response to receipt of the tape drive tray function data, the main library controller transmits a command to the intelligence module that the intelligence module decodes for use in controlling the at least one tape drive tray, including controlling the tape drive, power supply, fan, and fault indicator light. Regarding claim 25, the distinguishing elements of the claim teaches using the stationary intelligence module to drive discrete signal lines to a state as specified in the control data; periodically, with a loopback feature included within the tape drive tray, looping at least a portion of the control data back to the main library controller; and the main library controller to verifying integrity of at least one communication line used by the main library controller to communicate with the at least one tape drive based on the looped backed portion of the control data.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited reference relates to a tape storage subsystem.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON C. OLSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7560. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7:30-5:30; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (571)272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason C Olson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627